

Also of critical importance in this bill are provisions to reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act to tackle the problem of contamination in the Great Lakes Basin. It would provide the necessary funding to help clean up contaminated sediment in over 30 concerning areas.

My gratitude must also be extended to my esteemed colleague from Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, for his steadfast commitment to the Great Lakes and the passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1262 today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2009, I was absent for one Rollcall Vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Vote 124.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 6, 2009, I missed rollcall vote 107 on approving the Journal. If present, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING FRANCIS M. GORSKI

### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Francis M. Gorski for his 50th year of active service to the Lingohocken Fire Company. He and his family have been extremely dedicated to serving Wrightstown Township and the community as a whole.

Lingohocken firefighters are able to become "Life Members" after twenty-five years of service and let others take over. That was an option for Mr. Gorski twenty-five years ago, but instead he has remained hard at work—as so many have come to expect.

Mr. Gorski is one of the most active members of the department, responding to 70–80% of their calls. He has responded to calls that many individuals his age would no longer respond to—including calls at 3 o'clock in the morning. He volunteers his time for Lingohocken on top of the time he spends running the family business with his two younger brothers.

He has served at almost every rank in the company including chief, and is currently serving as deputy chief. His dedication and work ethic are examples for our community and country to follow.

Those at the company—and in our entire community—are extremely proud of the accomplishments and outstanding level of serv-

ice Mr. Gorski provides to the people of Wrightstown Township and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Francis Gorski for his exceptional services to his community and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT HELEN MARSHALL

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, an outstanding public servant. First elected the Borough President of Queens in November 2001, Helen Marshall is the first African-American and just the second woman to assume the post of chief executive of Queens County, which has a population of more than 2.2 million people. She has been a leader of uncommon grace, energy, and dedication to the people she serves.

As the Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall has been a champion for public libraries and schools, job training programs, quality health care, senior citizens, the environment, and economic development, just as she has been throughout her remarkable career. She has allocated tens of millions of dollars for parks, playgrounds and libraries, and in 2005 was bestowed the statewide Daniel Casey Library Advocacy Award. She has helped fund the expansions of cultural institutions, organized a Borough President's "War Room" to ensure the timely construction of thirty new public schools with more than 17,800 seats, and marshaled support for important infrastructure projects like the Queens Plaza Roadway Rebuilding Project and Long Island City Links. Marshall also spearheaded the historic effort to bring CUNY to the Rockaway Peninsula, providing \$6 million in capital funding to convert a former courthouse.

A native New Yorker, Helen Marshall served for nearly two decades as a respected legislator in both the New York State Assembly and the New York City Council. In 1982, she was elected to the first of five terms in the New York State Assembly, where she chaired the Rules Committee and served on the Leiland Commission.

When she won her seat on the City Council in 1991, she became the first female and first member of a minority elected to represent her City Council district, she worked to improve and unite an extraordinarily diverse community. On the City Council, she served as Chair of the Higher Education Committee and on the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Women's Issues. She also served as Co-Chair of the Council's Black and Latino Caucus. As Chair of the City Council's Higher Education Committee, Marshall successfully fought against the privatization of the City University of New York, one of the largest public university systems in the world. She secured funds to restore the City's free dental clinics, led the fight to prevent the sale of Elmhurst and Queens Hospital Center and has fought for many years to protect Flushing Bay from the impact of LaGuardia Airport.

A proud graduate of the New York City public school system, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Queens College of the City University of New York. For eight years prior to her election to the Assembly, Marshall was an early childhood teacher. In 1969 she became the first Director of the Langston Hughes Library, a post she held for five years. She also served as Director of the Elmcree Testing Assessment and Placement Program for eight years, where she helped hundreds of New Yorkers find gainful employment. In 1975, she served as a Member of the Democratic National Committee. She also served on Queens Community Board 3 for thirteen years, as a parent activist in the public schools for a decade and a half, was a founder of the Queens Overall Economic Development Corporation, and was elected in 1974 as a Democratic District Leader.

Helen Marshall remains devoted to her beloved husband, Donald, and to her children and grandchildren. She is universally regarded with affection by the people of Queens, a remarkable feat in the most diverse county in our nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Borough President Marshall, who has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout her career on behalf of her constituents in Queens and all New Yorkers.

#### IN HONOR OF JOHN P. GALLAGHER

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 16, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and of memory of my friend and mentor, John P. Gallagher, upon the official naming of the West Park Post Office, John P. Gallagher Building, and in recognition of his lifetime service to our community and to our country.

A lifelong resident of Cleveland, Mr. Gallagher was the son of Irish immigrants, from whom he learned the values of a strong work ethic and the importance of faith, family and service to community. During World War II, he served in the Army, First Engineer Special Brigade and in six combat campaigns, including missions in North Africa and the Normandy Invasion. Following the war, Mr. Gallagher worked in construction before taking a job with the City of Cleveland in 1954. He worked diligently for the City, until his retirement in 1987, which followed 22 years in the role of Superintendent of Sidewalks.

Throughout his adult life, Mr. Gallagher dedicated his time and talent to issues and projects focused on the improvement of our community. He was a staunch advocate of neighborhood safety, and also advocated for the welfare and rights of senior citizens. For many years, he served as a Democratic Party precinct committee chairman and volunteered countless hours in numerous local, state and national campaigns. He kept a close watch over his neighborhood park, and organized programs and projects for senior citizens at Cleveland's Gunning Recreation Center. His intelligence, kindness and good sense of humor quickly endeared people to him. Mr.